upon a number of factors like type of plant, capacity, type of fuel and its cost, year of commissioning, location etc.

(c) The tariff bid of NTPC was neither the highest nor the lowest among the bids received.

(d) The tariff bid submitted by NTPC Ltd. in respect of the Sasan project was based on various assumptions relating to cost inputs, performance inputs, applicable taxes & duties etc., inputs from consultations and assessment of risk associated with the development and operation of such a large sized integrated power plant and the coal mine. Moreover, price bids submitted by companies are commercial decisions which are in the nature of business confidential information of any company or commercial undertaking.

**Pending cases in courts**

†*112. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of cases are pending for long in district courts, High Courts and the Supreme Court;

(b) if so, the time limit for disposal of cases in the Supreme Court, High Courts, district courts and subordinate courts;

(c) whether Government would consider disposing off single point cases pending for long on single point basis; and

(d) if so, what provisions would be made therefor in the enactments?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) A number of cases are pending in the various courts of the country, some of them for a period of more than a year.

(b) to (d) The time taken for disposing of a case in the court and the manner of its disposal is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. With a view to ensuring expeditious disposal of civil cases, the Civil Procedure Code has been amended and the amendments have been brought into to force with effect from 1.7.2002 which, *inter-alia*, limit the number of adjournments which can be granted to a party to three, provide for speedy process service by speed post, courier services, fax or e-mail and authorize the court to fix time limit for oral arguments, etc. Further, with a view to ensuring speedy disposal of criminal cases, Government has made appropriate changes in the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2005, *inter-alia*, introducing the concept of 'Plea Bargaining'.

**Women education centres in the North Eastern Region**

*113. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of women education centres set up by the Central Government for illiterate women, in the North Eastern Region (NER), particularly in Sikkim, during the last three years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.